2. Department of Biotechnology has also support research and development project on medicinal and aromatic plants used in the country.

3. Government is also supporting industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products.

4. Labelling provisions have been relaxed.

5. Laboratory facilities are being expanded.

6. Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) have been notified.

7. Market survey has been supported.

World Commission on Macro-economics and Health

3903. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Chapter of the World Commission on Macro-economics and Health has been formally launched on 9th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Director of Earth Institute, Columbia University and Advisor to UN Secretary General have pointed out that India needs to spend more on health and the Commission would help Indian States to get more financial resources from the international agencies;

(d) whether the Finance Ministry has been approached to provide required funds; and

(e) whether any assurance has been given by the Finance Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission on Macro-economics and Health (NCMH), was formally launched by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare on 9th January, 2003. Prof. Jeffrrey Sachs, Chairman, W.H.O. Commission on Macro-economics and Health and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General was the Guest of Honour. The proposed Commission is to be jointly chaired by Union Ministers of Finance and Health and Family Welfare. Necessary formalities to set up the proposed NCMH are under finalization.

(c) to (e) The need for increasing investment in the health sector in India was emphasized during the inauguration of the proposed Commission. The terms of reference of the proposed Commission will include identification of the priority areas for health intervention and the financing strategies to address these priorities. Based on the recommendations contained in the Report, as also the magnitude of financial resources required for scaling up essential health interventions, further details like domestic funding *vis-a-vis* external sourcing would be worked out.

Ban on Nimesulide

3905. SHRI T. S. BAJWA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any notice from N.H.R.C. seeking a ban on Nimesulide;

(b) the number of such controversial drugs being used in the country and their names; and

(c) the action Government propose to take against those controversial drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes Sir. The matter of safety of Nimesulide has been examined by Expert Committee of Drugs Technical Advisory Board in consultation with Medical Experts and Indian Academy of Paediatrics etc. who have observed the drug to be safe and useful.

(b) and (c) The rationality of the drug formulations alleged to be harmful or irrational are examined by an Expert Committee, a Sub-Committee of Drugs Technical Advisory Board and is a continuous process. The recommendations of the Expert Committee, based on available literature, the usage and benefit risk ratio in the country are examined by the DTAB, a statutory committee under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Any drug, if found irrational or harmful, is prohibited under Section 26-A of the said Act. So far, 74 categories of drugs and formulations have been prohibited for manufacture and sale in the country.